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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit war crimes against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Even during the holiest days of the year, the Palestinian people have not been spared the wrath of the occupying Power, which seeks to ensure their constant suffering and loss. The latest crimes and atrocities by the occupying Power against the civilian population under its occupation have been committed during the Eid al-Fitr holiday, marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

In the pre-dawn hours (Palestine time) of today, more than 40 Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles, backed by helicopter gunships, raided the Breij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Launching an assault with tank shelling, machine-gun fire and helicopter-fired missiles, the Israeli occupying forces killed 10 Palestinians, including a woman and several members of the same families, and wounded at least 20 other people. Among those killed by the occupying forces were two UNRWA workers, Ahlam Riziq Kandil, a 31-year-old school teacher, and Osama Hassan Tahrawi, a 31-year-old school attendant, who was killed in the raid along with his brother. In addition to the brutal killings committed, this Israeli attack in such a densely crowded refugee camp caused extensive damage and destruction to shelters and property throughout the camp. Moreover, at least one home in particular was targeted for demolition and was blown up by the occupying forces during their raid.

The military assault against the Breij refugee camp comes on the heels of a series of consecutive attacks carried out by the Israeli occupying forces in the Gaza Strip, including the extrajudicial execution of a Palestinian man two days ago. On Wednesday, 4 December, the occupying forces launched a helicopter missile strike against a Palestinian Authority facility, killing Mustafa Sabah, 35 years old. The occupying forces indeed declared that Mr. Sabah was targeted for assassination. The occupying Power must be held accountable for this war crime and for all other war crimes and atrocities committed against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

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Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for all of the cold-blooded killings of Palestinian men, women and children committed by the occupying forces. It must be held accountable for the countless extrajudicial executions perpetrated. It must be held accountable for the wanton destruction wrought by the occupying forces throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It must be held accountable for the thousands of Palestinians imprisoned, detained and tortured. Israel, the occupying Power, cannot continue to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people with impunity. It cannot continue to carry out this bloody military campaign and continue to collectively punish an entire people with impunity. Israel must be held responsible for all of its illegal policies and practices and all serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law, and the perpetrators of these crimes must be brought to justice.

The international community must act urgently to address the crisis situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, after now more than 27 months of this brutal Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people. The United Nations Security Council in particular, in upholding its duty for the maintenance of international peace and security, must take the necessary action to bring a halt to the ongoing Israeli crimes and violations being committed against the Palestinian people.

In follow-up to my previous 147 letters to you regarding the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem dated from 29 September 2000 to 3 December 2002 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941; A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971; A/ES-10/118-S/2001/989; A/ES-10/119-S/2001/991; A/ES-10/121-S/2001/1007; A/ES-10/122-S/2001/1024; A/ES-10/123-S/2001/1036; A/ES-10/124-S/2001/1084; A/ES-10/125-S/2001/1092; A/ES-10/126-S/2001/1118; A/ES-10/128-

S/2001/1149; A/ES-10/129-S/2001/1166; A/ES-10/133-S/2001/1239; A/ES-10/134-S/2001/1261; A/ES-10/136-S/2002/18; A/ES-10/137-S/2002/39; A/ES-10/138-S/2002/48; A/ES-10/139-S/2002/58; A/ES-10/140-S/2002/89; A/ES-10/141-S/2002/95; A/ES-10/142-S/2002/102; A/ES-10/143-S/2002/121; A/ES-10/144-S/2002/142; A/ES-10/145-S/2002/146; A/ES-10/146-S/2002/165; A/ES-10/147-S/2002/175; A/ES-10/148-S/2002/182; A/ES-10/149-S/2002/186; A/ES-10/150-S/2002/214; A/ES-10/151-S/2002/223; A/ES-10/152-S/2002/232; A/ES-10/154-S/2002/242; A/ES-10/155-S/2002/248; A/ES-10/156-S/2002/245; A/ES-10/157-S/2002/253; A/ES-10/158-S/2002/258; A/ES-10/159-S/2002/281; A/ES-10/160-S/2002/307; A/ES-10/161-S/2002/319; A/ES-10/162-S/2002/330; A/ES-10/163-S/2002/340; A/ES-10/164-S/2002/353; A/ES-10/165-S/2002/361; A/ES-10/166-S/2002/370; A/ES-10/167-S/2002/433; A/ES-10/168-S/2002/474; A/ES-10/169-S/2002/495; A/ES-10/173-S/2002/536; A/ES-10/174-S/2002/555; A/ES-10/175-S/2002/610; A/ES-10/176-S/2002/617; A/ES-10/177-S/2002/641; A/ES-10/178-S/2002/650; A/ES-10/179-S/2002/654; A/ES-10/180-S/2002/686; A/ES-10/181-S/2002/697; A/ES-10/182-S/2002/699; A/ES-10/183-S/2002/717; A/ES-10/184-S/2002/738; A/ES-10/185-S/2002/827; A/ES-10/190-S/2002/891; A/ES-10/192-S/2002/976; A/ES-10/193-S/2002/983; A/ES-10/194-S/2002/1052; A/ES-10/195-S/2002/1066; A/ES-10/196-S/2002/1083; A/ES-10/197-S/2002/1094; A/ES-10/198-S/2002/1104; A/ES-10/199-S/2002/1114; A/ES-10/200-S/2002/1144; A/ES-10/201-S/2002/1166; A/ES-10/202-S/2002/1244; A/ES-10/203-S/2002/1270; A/ES-10/204-S/2002/1298 and A/ES-10/205-S/2002/1319), I regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you, at least 14 Palestinians, including children, have been killed by Israeli occupying forces. This raises the total number of Palestinian martyrs killed since 28 September 2000 to 1,979. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Tuesday, 3 December 2002, through Friday, 6 December 2002)

Tuesday, 3 December 2002

Fatma Mohamed Eissa Sarahneh (95 years old)

Wednesday, 4 December 2002

1. Samy Kazem Shawer
2. Ahmed Dawood Surour
3. Mustafa Ahmed Sabah

Friday, 5 December 2002

1. Abdel Munem Mohamed Al Bahr
2. Ahlam Rizq Kandil
3. Mohamed Abdel Hamid Al Owe'ni
4. Imad Abdel Hamid Al Owe'ni
5. Raed Yehia Ramadan
6. Tareq Yehia Ramadan
7. Marwan Hasan Al Tahrawy (16 years old)
8. Osama Hasan Al Tahrawy
9. Hazem Jameel Abu Abdou
10. Ramy Omar Al A'lem

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 1,979.

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Security Council
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Identical letters dated 13 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to use excessive and indiscriminate force against the civilian population under its occupation, committing war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people on a daily basis. Since my letter to you one week ago, the Israeli occupying forces have killed 16 men, women and children throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Following the Israeli attack on the Breij refugee camp in Gaza on 6 December, on Saturday, 7 December, the occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian man, Abdelhady Al-Omari, in Jenin. The next day, 8 December, the occupying forces killed a Palestinian woman, Nahla Abdelrahman, age 41, and critically wounded two of her children as they were walking to their home in Rafah. The following day, 9 December, the Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a mentally ill Palestinian man near the city of Tulkarem. Tuesday, 10 December, witnessed the shooting and killing of a 25-year-old Palestinian woman, Rihaneh Al-Kilany, riding in a taxi in the Askar refugee camp in Nablus. On Wednesday, 11 December, the occupying forces committed yet another extrajudicial execution, with the killing of Osama Badra, age 27, as he fled for his life in the Balata refugee camp in Nablus. The next day, Thursday, 12 December, among those killed by the Israeli occupying forces were five Palestinian men, two brothers and three cousins from the same family, who were trying to climb a fence into Israel in a clearly desperate search for work. These killings were followed today by the extrajudicial execution of another Palestinian man near the city of Bethlehem.

In addition to the heinous killings of Palestinian civilians, the occupying forces have continued to carry out raids throughout Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, abducting and detaining dozens of Palestinians in the past week alone. Moreover, the occupying Power has continued to carry out the illegal practice of home demolitions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Just today, the occupying

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forces destroyed three houses in the city of Al-Khalil. Such measures of collective punishment, similar to the killing and injury of Palestinians by the occupying forces, are being carried out on a daily basis. This has included the continuing imposition of severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the imposition of 24-hour curfews on several cities, towns and refugee camps. As repeatedly reported, these restrictions and curfews have completely debilitated Palestinian society in all areas and have gravely impacted the socio-economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, a situation that has plummeted to the level of a dire humanitarian crisis for months now.

As a backdrop to the poverty and hunger that have been rapidly increasing among the Palestinian population under Israeli occupation, several United Nations agencies and other humanitarian organizations continue to work to provide assistance to needy and impoverished Palestinians. Their work is not without challenges and obstacles as the occupying forces continue to hamper their work, subjecting them to severe restrictions on movement, at times even preventing the assistance from reaching those in need, harassing personnel and creating other obstacles to their work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Indeed, the United Nations in particular continues to be a target of Israeli violence and destruction. In addition to the recent killing of personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in a recent strike carried out in Beit Lahiya in Gaza, the occupying forces deliberately demolished a warehouse used by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). That warehouse, which was clearly marked with the United Nations and WFP insignias, contained 537 metric tons of donated food supplies intended for distribution to needy Palestinians. According to the Agency, the food was enough to feed at least 38,000 people for a month. The destruction of these humanitarian supplies is deplorable and can only compound the difficulties being faced by humanitarian agencies in their efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

We once again reiterate the urgent need for the international community to take action to address all of the above-mentioned serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law being committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people. We urge the Security Council to uphold its duties for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council cannot continue to evade its responsibility to take measures to bring an end to the continuing Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people.

In follow-up to my previous 148 letters to you regarding the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 September 2000 to 3 December 2002 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314;

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I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 13 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Saturday, 7 December to Friday, 13 December 2002)

Saturday, 7 December 2002

Abdelhady Omar Najib Al-Omari

Sunday, 8 December 2002

Nahla Abdelrahman

Monday, 9 December 2002

1. Ahmed Abdelkarim Al-Mijaydeh (17 years old) (died from wounds sustained on 24 August)
2. Basil Mustafa Mohammed Ko'a
3. Azam Abdelqader Hassan Alawneh

Tuesday, 10 December 2002

1. Rihaneh Hisham Fakhri Zeid Al-Kilany
2. Yaseen Sa'eed Al-Agha

Wednesday, 11 December 2002

Osama Hassan Ali Badra

Thursday, 12 December 2002

1. Nael Mohammed Abu Libdeh
2. Mohammed Adel Al-Astal
3. Asaf Adel Al-Astal
4. Mohammed Fahmy Al-Astal
5. Ahmed Faris Al-Astal
6. Ahmed Ayesh Al-Astal

Friday, 13 December 2002

1. Jadallah Musa Shukeh
2. Bassam Mohammed Al-Breem

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 1,994.

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Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 20 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is my profound regret to inform you that, by 18 December 2002, the number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 tragically surpassed 2,000 martyrs. These Palestinian martyrs have included men, women, children and the elderly. Indeed, no segment of Palestinian society has been spared the lethal force of this ongoing and bloody Israeli military campaign.

In the countless assaults launched against the Palestinian civilian population, the occupying forces have used all means of heavy weaponry in their vast arsenal and all methods of killing, including extrajudiciary executions. The more than 2,000 martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces as of this date, however, do not include the many Palestinians who have died as a result of other practices of the occupying Power, such as those who died because they were prevented from obtaining access to medical care, including the chronically ill and mothers or infants who died during birth at Israeli checkpoints. In addition to this tragic and extensive loss of human life, more than 35,000 Palestinians have been injured as a result of the excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate force used by the Israeli occupying forces against the civilian population.

The wide range of Israeli crimes and violations committed against the Palestinian people under occupation over the past 27 months has also included frequent and continuing military raids on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps. This has involved the abduction and detention of thousands of Palestinians. Currently, there are more than 5,000 Palestinians, mostly males between the ages of 15 and 55, who continue to be held by the occupying Power in prisons or detention centres. Moreover, the destruction incurred by the occupying forces throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory has been massive. Such wanton destruction and widespread damage of both public and private Palestinian property has included thousands of homes, including refugee shelters, hundreds of vehicles, vital infrastructure, including water, electricity and sewage networks and roads, institutions of the Palestinian Authority, religious and historic sites, and agricultural

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land and orchards. The devastation wrought by the occupying forces has severely and negatively impacted all sectors of Palestinian society — economic, social, political, health, educational, religious and cultural. As a result, a dire humanitarian situation continues to prevail in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Indeed, Israel, the occupying Power, has not for one day ceased its military campaign of killing and destruction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In the week since my last letter, the Israeli occupying forces killed another 12 Palestinians, including and 11-year-old girl, Nada Kamal Madi, killed yesterday as she opened a window in her home in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza. In addition, dozens more Palestinians were abducted and detained this week by the occupying forces. Moreover, the occupying forces demolished at least 10 Palestinian homes during this same period.

This letter is in follow-up to my previous 149 letters to you regarding the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 13 December 2002 (A/ES-10/207-S/2002/1365), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since my last letter, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 12 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,006 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestinian
to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Saturday, 14 December, to Thursday, 19 December 2002)

Saturday, 14 December 2002

Hamed Sa'eed Khairallah

Sunday, 15 December 2002

Mohammed Ziad Hussein (18 years old) (died from wounds sustained previously)

Monday, 16 December 2002

1. Hassan Farhan Mohammed Shloleh
2. Abdelkarim Rateb Shabat
3. Mohammed Mahmoud Edwan

Tuesday, 17 December 2002

Eid Asa'd Abu Hilal

Wednesday, 18 December 2002

1. Roshdi Mohammed Hussein Hashash
2. Jawad Issam Zidan (16 years old)
3. Ala'a Mohammed Musleh Al-Sododi (15 years old)

Thursday, 19 December 2002

1. Louay Ghazi Hosni Muhsen (1½ years old)
2. Nada Kamal Madi (11 years old)
3. Abdullah Nazmi Abdullah Rabia'a

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,006.

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Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 26 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people on a daily basis. Since my letter to you dated 20 December 2002, the Israeli occupying forces have killed 18 men, women and children throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Today, 26 December 2002, in a wave of killing and abductions, Israeli occupying forces killed at least eight Palestinians, injured more than 30 and abducted several others. In one instance, the occupying forces raided the compound of the main hospital in the city of Ramallah and fired at the guard in the hospital, killing him in cold blood, while abducting three other Palestinians. Also in Ramallah, Israeli execution squads shot at a car in the centre of the city, killing one of the passengers. During their shooting rampage, a student and a traffic policeman were also killed.

Further, in the city of Tulkarem, Israeli occupying forces committed another extrajudicial execution, killing Jamal Nader. Israeli execution squads abducted Mr. Nader and shortly thereafter shot and killed him. Also in Tulkarem, Israeli occupying forces blew up the home of Hamza Abu Roub, killing him instantaneously. The wave of killing by Israeli occupying forces also extended to the city of Nablus, where Israeli occupying forces killed two other Palestinians in Al-Qasba, the old quarter of the city. Of the two killed, one was a 16-year-old boy, who was shot in the stomach by Israeli forces. In addition to the above-mentioned killings, Israeli occupying forces killed another Palestinian in Gaza, bringing the number of Palestinians killed today to a total of eight.

Israel, the occupying Power, has also persisted in its complete and absolute disdain towards Christmas celebrations and Christian holy sites in the city of Bethlehem. Today, the day after Christmas, Israeli occupying forces reimposed their curfew on the city of Bethlehem only to ensure that this year's holiday would be the

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dreariest of all celebrations. We condemn the practices and policies of the occupying Power in Bethlehem and call upon the entire international community to express its condemnation as well.

Israel, the occupying Power, has also taken further measures to intensify its colonization of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by attempting to establish a so-called buffer zone around illegal Israeli settlements. Needless to say, such a measure can only mean further confiscation of Palestinian land, construction of settlements and, indeed, an increase in the presence of colonial settlers on Palestinian land. These illegal measures also come in direct challenge to the international community, with the clear aim of sabotaging any and all efforts towards a peaceful settlement.

The above-mentioned war crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, have emerged as a clear pattern of behaviour adopted by the Government of Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu. Those measures can only continue in the light of the positions held by influential parties, which can be seen by the occupying Power as encouragement, such as the unfortunate veto cast by the United States of America in the Security Council on Friday, 20 December 2002.

We once again reiterate the urgent need for the international community to take action to address all of the above-mentioned serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law being committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people. We urge the Security Council to fulfil its duties for the maintenance of international peace and security and bring all Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people to an immediate end.

This letter is in follow-up to my previous 150 letters to you regarding the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 December 2002 (A/ES-10/208-S/2002/1396), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, as indicated above, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 18 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,024 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Friday, 20 December to Thursday, 26 December 2002)

Friday, 20 December 2002 (not included in letter dated 20 December 2002)

1. Majdi Mohammed Abdel Karim Moussa
2. Sidiqeh Attiyeh Abu Sahloul

Saturday, 21 December 2002

1. Ahmed Fayez Abu Shimaleh
2. Hanein Masoud Abu Sitteh (12 years old)

Sunday, 22 December 2002

1. Muhsen Fuad Jaber

Monday, 23 December 2002

1. Shaman Hussein Sobeh
2. Mustafa Jalal Saleh Qash

Tuesday, 24 December 2002

1. Mohammed Fikry Breik (14 years old)

Wednesday, 25 December 2002

1. Ibrahim Taleb Hamd Abu Hawash
2. Nabil Mohammed Kaware'

Thursday, 26 December 2002

1. Bassam Lotfy Al-Ahsqar
2. Mahdy Samir Obeid
3. Samer Al-Shamaly
4. Hamzeh Mohammed Sa'eed Abu Al-Roub
5. Jamal Nader
6. Mohammed Mohi El-Din Ashoor (18 years old)
7. Ahmed Tobileh
8. Asem Al-Sousi

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,024.